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**Member Shelter Programs**

The Umbrella  
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families  
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center  
Danbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse  
Enfield, CT

Greenwich YWCA  
Domestic Abuse Service  
Greenwich, CT

Interval House  
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis  
Meriden, CT

New Horizons  
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center  
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services  
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT  
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services  
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project  
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven  
Waterbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Willimantic, CT

To: Appropriations Committee  
From: Linda Blozie  
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Date: December 9, 2009  
Re: Governor's Mitigation Plan

Good afternoon, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Linda Blozie and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Thank you for accepting my testimony regarding the Governor's proposed mitigation plan.

As you all know, for the past six years CCADV and its member programs have been working to increase access to emergency shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence. This has been a particularly challenging experience but I must say we have had some, albeit limited success. Today my request is different. I am asking you to oppose the Governor's mitigation package as it is because it will effect domestic violence services in Connecticut. And while DSS cannot tell us if the \$2 million cut to the homeless

line will impact us, eventually our services will be on the chopping block. Other funding cuts are also proposed to vital services that domestic violence victims and survivors seek out.

I don't think there is anyone here who cannot empathize with or does not understand the need for domestic violence services. To show your commitment, Speaker Donovan formed a Domestic Violence Task Force this year and former Speaker Amann put together a task force on the Impact of Domestic Violence within Immigrant Communities. So we have your interest in working together to address this issue.

Now is not the time to cut services for anyone who is not safe in their own home.

Last year, we served over 56,000 individuals. That is no small number! Our programs have proven that they are *effective and efficient* – these programs are improving people's lives in specific, measurable, and cost-effective ways.

When a victim of domestic violence and her children come to a shelter, *the cycle of violence is interrupted*. And when that cycle is interrupted, police are not going to the home, emergency medical care is not required, and employers do not lose productivity because victims are unable to work. We can keep victims in the workforce because they will have a safe and supportive environment to return to at the end of each day. We can keep their children in school. We can reduce the likelihood of intergenerational violence because children will not be exposed to continued violence; instead they will be nurtured and taught at a young age that violence is not an acceptable way to solve problems.

That's what the Connecticut Coalition and its eighteen member programs is providing to the citizens of this state. The chance to get quality services while saving money in the long run. I thank you in advance for any positive consideration of my request.